UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ABERDEEN, IDAHO

and

NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RENO, NEVADA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF COMMON THREESQUARE FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION D SOUTH SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Nevada Division of Agriculture announce the release of a Selected ecotype of Common Threesquare *(Scirpuspungens)* for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South.

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Wayne Kirch Selection Germplasm of Common Threesquare to document its original collection location. The Wayne Kirch Selection Germplasm is released as a Selected Class of certified germplasm (natural track).

This alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of Common Threesquare are inadequate. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for ecosystem restoration, enhancement, and construction of wetlands. The potential for immediate use is high, and commercial potential beyond specific wetland uses is probably limited. No commercial cultivars of Common Threesquare have been released at this time.

Species:	***Scirpus pungens*** Vahl
New Name:	***Schoenoplectus pungens var. pungens (Vahl) Palla***
Synonymy:	***Scirpus americanus auct. non Pers.***
Common Name:	**Coninion Threesquare**
Plant Symbol:	SCPU3
Accession Number:	9067642

The scientific name for Common Threesquare has been changed from *Scirpus **pungens** Vahl* to *Schoenoplectus pungens var. pungens (Vahl) Palla.* Taxonomists have found that Common Threesquare more appropriately fits into the genus *Schoenoplectus* than ***Scirpus.*** We have chosen to release it as *Scirpus pungens* because of public recognition and familiarity.

Source: Wayne Kirch Wildlife Management Area (previously known as the Scripps Wildlife Management Area), 63 miles south of Ely on Hwy 318, Nye County, Nevada.

Collection area Information: Stands are located within Wayne Kirch WMA. Very little variability among SCPU3 stands was observed within the boundaries of the WMA. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of SCPU3 located within the WMA boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Elevation is approximately 5800 feet. The soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

Method of Selection: From a Common Threesquare collection found in Land Resource Region (LRR) D South, which includes Major Land Resource Regions (MLRAs) eastern 1/3 of 11, all of 12 and 13.

A total of 8 SCPU3 collections from the Aberdeen PMC Service Area were evaluated from 1991 to 1995. All collections were evaluated for survival, overall growth and spread, vigor, and potential seed production. The Wayne Kirch collection ranked third out of all SCPU3 collections. It ranked first in height, second in seed production, fourth in spread and vigor, and fifth in density. The collection site has many acres of plants which makes collection relatively easy. This accession needs special seed treatment and stratification procedures to achieve acceptable germination rates.

Description: *Scirpus pungens* is a perennial, rhizomatous, wetland obligate. Stems are upright, triangular, and grow up to 3 feet tall. The leaves are small, borne near the base, blades are elongate or reduced when the plant grows in shallow water rather than on wet ground. Inflorescence consists of a sessile, compact cluster of 1 to 8 spikelets which protrudes from the base of a prominent green bract, (1 to 6 inches) which appears as a continuation of the stem. Scales yellowish-brown to reddish-brown, thin, with a firm midrib. Bristles barbellate, **4-6,** often unequal, not exceeding the achene. Achene 2.2-3.3 mm long (including the evident, slender stylar apiculus of about 0.5 mm) and 1.6-2.3 mm wide.

Anticipated Conservation Use: The potential uses of the Wayne Kirch Selection Germplasm of ***Scirpus*** *pungens* include erosion control, Constructed Wetland System applications, wildlife food/cover, wetland creations and restorations, and for increasing plant diversity in wetland and riparian communities. **Its** tendency to spread rhizomatously makes the Wayne Kirch Selection Gerinplasin an excellent plant for soil stabilization in sites which are saturated or have up to 6 inches of standing water. The rhizomes also form a matrix for many beneficial bacteria making this plant an excellent choice for wastewater treatment.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Scirpus pungens is an obligate wetland plant and is found throughout the Intermountain West. It commonly inhabits poorly drained soils which are saturated or have up to 6 inches of standing water. It will tolerate periods of inundation and drought. The Wayne Kirch Selection Germplasm would be an excellent choice for use throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR D South.

Seed Maintenance: Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Wayne Kirch Selection Germplasm of Common Threesquare, contact the Wayne Kirch Wildlife Management Area, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Sunnyside, NV (702) 238-5378. For official Selected tags to verify genetic identity of these plant materials, contact Nevada Division of Agriculture (702) 688-1180.

Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:

Wayne Kirch Selection Germplasm of Common Threesquare *(Scirpus pungens)* for Land Resource Region (LRR) D South from Wayne Kirch Wildlife Management Area, south **of** the town of Ely, Nye County, Nevada.

3/28/98
Date

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Idaho State Conservationist'
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

2/26/98
Date

Nick Pearson
Acting Nevada State Conservationist
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2/17/98
Date

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4/15/98
Date

M Safley
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